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Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 10
Trade and development

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Overall orientation

10.1 The main objective of the programme implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) is to assist developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Through its work to promote development-centred globalization, UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including poverty eradication, improving the well-being of citizens and addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. In particular, UNCTAD will further enhance its efforts to support the development of Africa across its areas of expertise.

10.2 In order to attain the foregoing objectives, UNCTAD, within its mandate, will:

(a) Conduct research and analysis on long-standing and emerging trade and development issues;

(b) Build consensus around efforts to promote policies and strategies conducive to inclusive and sustainable development;

(c) Support countries in implementing development strategies aimed at integrating into the global trading system and economy and achieving sustainable growth and development.

10.3 ITC will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through fulfilling its mandate (to improve the international competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises from developing countries, especially least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition).

10.4 In the context of deepening interdependence among all countries, UNCTAD will maintain its unique orientation and commitment to development through those three pillars, while remaining responsive and accountable to all Member States. The Conference will also continue efforts to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, including through results-based management.

10.5 The programme is guided by the quadrennial sessions of the Conference, the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including the decisions adopted at the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Conference and those to be adopted at the fourteenth session, to be held in 2016. UNCTAD remains the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. The Conference is responsible for subprogrammes 1 to 5, while ITC is responsible for subprogramme 6.

10.6 As many development challenges are closely interconnected, UNCTAD contributes to effective responses to these challenges through the integrated treatment of trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development and the promotion of such an approach for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD has a key role to play in the United Nations system for building consensus around more

development-centred globalization, which contributes to faster and more stable growth, economic diversification, sustainable debt management, job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable and inclusive development.

10.7 UNCTAD will pursue its subprogrammes in support of the main objective of the programme. Subprogramme 1 examines development strategies in a globalizing world economy and related issues. Subprogrammes 2 and 4 contribute to the building of productive capacity and international competitiveness. Subprogramme 3 and the trade logistics component of subprogramme 4 contribute to the maximization of gains resulting from globalization for development in international trade and trade negotiations. Subprogramme 5 covers the development strategies of economies in Africa, least developed countries and countries in special situations, including small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies. Sectoral concerns of those countries will also be addressed by other subprogrammes in coordination and cooperation with subprogramme 5.

10.8 ITC will pursue subprogramme 6, which addresses the operational aspects of trade promotion and export development. Its strategic vision is to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development. In paragraph 68 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, international trade is explicitly recognized as a means to achieve the global goals: "International trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development." The role of the private sector for development is also recognized in the 2030 Agenda. Within this context, the strategic challenges of ITC are to strengthen the integration of the business sector into the global economy, improve the performance of trade and investment support institutions for the benefit of enterprises and improve the international competitiveness of enterprises.

10.9 Throughout its programme of work, UNCTAD will make efforts to mainstream cross-cutting issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, the promotion of sustainable development, and full and productive employment. It will also strengthen its cross-divisional coordination, in particular with respect to training and capacity-building programmes. UNCTAD and ITC will increase their use of evaluation surveys to seek feedback from relevant stakeholders from across all subprogrammes in order to measure the improved capacity of stakeholders to address trade and development issues as a result of UNCTAD and ITC assistance.

10.10 UNCTAD will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of relevant global conferences and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its means of implementation, through support for global partnerships for development, financing for development, domestic resource mobilization, investment, addressing debt, trade, commodities and systemic issues, global economic decision-making, economic cooperation among developing countries, sustainable development and science and technology for development.

10.11 UNCTAD will also contribute to the implementation of other relevant global conferences, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its follow-up, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the outcomes and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the outcomes and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World

Summit on the Information Society, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want". UNCTAD will also assist in furthering the implementation of the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

10.12 As a lead agency of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) inter-agency thematic cluster on trade and productive capacity, UNCTAD will contribute to the implementation of the Aid for Trade initiative, enhance the role of trade and development and interrelated issues in United Nations development assistance plans, such as United Nations development assistance frameworks and national development strategies, undertake joint operations at the country level and enhance related inter-agency cooperation in system-wide initiatives.

10.13 In the implementation of the programme of work of UNCTAD under the different subprogrammes, the following should be taken into consideration:

(a) The relevance of the technical cooperation programmes provided to developing countries as a cross-cutting issue to be monitored by the secretariat;

(b) As the work on results-based management is an ongoing process and follows relevant United Nations guidelines, the overall results-based management approach will be revised on the basis of the outcome of this process.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance economic policies and strategies at all levels for sustained growth, inclusive and sustainable development, full employment and decent work for all, and poverty eradication in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Improved understanding of the global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustained development at the national, regional and international levels	(i) Number of statements at, inter alia, intergovernmental meetings, by policymakers and beneficiaries indicating the usefulness of UNCTAD research and analysis for the national policymaking process
	(ii) Number of citations in the media on the growth-oriented macroeconomic and financial policy choices advocated in UNCTAD research
	(iii) Percentage of UNCTAD Virtual Institute members indicating that the products and services of the Virtual Institute are useful for their teaching and research

(b) Enhanced understanding of the interplay between successful development resource mobilization, debt sustainability and effective debt management as it relates to achieving progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries	(i) Number of institutions and countries having used the capacity-building services of the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System programme (ii) Number of international and national policy positions and initiatives in the area of debt and development resource mobilization incorporating contributions from UNCTAD (iii) Percentage of stakeholders indicating the usefulness of participating in the Debt Management Conference
(c) Improved access to and use of reliable and timely statistics and indicators highlighting the interlinkages between globalization, trade and development for decision-making on economic policies and development strategies	Percentage of users reporting satisfaction with UNCTAD statistical products
(d) Improved Palestinian policymaking and institutional capacities, and strengthened international cooperation for alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people and for building an independent Palestinian State	Number of Palestinian development and policy initiatives and institutions responding to UNCTAD research findings, recommendations and technical cooperation activities

Strategy

10.14 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, will focus on:

(a) Identifying specific needs and measures arising from the interdependence among trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies, from the point of view of their effects on development;

(b) Contributing to a better understanding of coherence between international economic rules, practices and processes and national policies and development strategies;

(c) Contributing to research and analysis on:

(i) The prospects of and impact on trade and development, at both the national and international levels, resulting from the global economic and financial crisis and its aftermath;

(ii) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how it can enable the pursuit of stable and inclusive development paths;

(iii) The changes to the global economic landscape, with a view to facilitating the bridging of development gaps;

(d) Supporting developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies in their efforts to formulate

development strategies and practical policy options and recommendations at all levels to meet the challenges of globalization, and continuing to support middle-income countries according to their needs;

(e) Intensifying interaction and communication with Governments, policymakers, universities and think tanks in Member States, including the dissemination of the work of UNCTAD.

10.15 The objective will be pursued through research and policy analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance, including with other international organizations, on the basis of:

(a) Timely and forward-looking research and analysis regarding macroeconomic, debt and development policies, including resource mobilization, taking into account the relevant outcomes of global conferences and summits on development, in particular the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) The furtherance of consensus-building with regard to macroeconomic and development policies for developing countries;

(c) Support for the development of local teaching and research capacities in developing countries and academic networking;

(d) Technical assistance, training and support for developing countries in building national capacities for effective debt management, in cooperation, where appropriate, with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other stakeholders;

(e) Assistance to developing countries to improve their national statistical capacity in the area of trade and development through advisory, statistical and information services;

(f) An assessment of the prospects of, and the obstacles to, economic development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the provision of effective operational activities, with a view to alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people;

(g) Research and analysis of trends and prospects for South-South integration and cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in the areas of trade, finance, investment and technology.

Subprogramme 2
Investment and enterprise

Objective of the Organization: To ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for the enhancement of productive and technological capacity-building, industrialization, economic diversification, job creation and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Improved ability of countries to address key and emerging issues related to investment and its interaction with official development assistance, trade and regional integration, and to develop in a sustainable manner	(i) Number of investment stakeholders reporting improved capacity to address key issues related to investment as a result of UNCTAD assistance
	(ii) Number of statements by Member States indicating that they have implemented tools and methodology provided by UNCTAD in the area of international investment
	(iii) Percentage of stakeholders indicating the usefulness of participating in the World Investment Forum
(b) Enhanced ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in designing and implementing strategies and policies to attract and benefit from investment for sustainable development	(i) Number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition implementing strategies, policies and recommendations for attracting and benefiting from foreign investment for sustainable development and inclusive growth, as a result of UNCTAD assistance
	(ii) Number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition demonstrating improved investment-related performance on the basis of various benchmark indicators, following UNCTAD assistance
(c) Enhanced capacity to address key and emerging issues related to international investment agreements and their development dimension, as well as their formulation and implementation	(i) Number of statements by Member States indicating that they pursue activities in support of the sustainable development dimension of international investment agreements, following UNCTAD assistance
	(ii) Number of investment stakeholders sharing experiences and best practices on the sustainable dimension of international investment agreements

(d) Enhanced understanding of enterprise development issues and ability to boost productive and technological capacity through enterprise development policies	(i) Number of countries implementing UNCTAD policy measures and tools in the design of policies aimed at strengthening entrepreneurship and the competitiveness of their firms (ii) Number of countries using guidance and tools developed by UNCTAD in the areas of accounting, enterprise development, business linkages and corporate reporting

Strategy

10.16 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on Investment and Enterprise, will assist all developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, in designing and implementing policies aimed at enhancing productive and technological capacities, industrialization, economic diversification and job creation and promoting effective progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through investment and enterprise development. To that end, the subprogramme will:

(a) Strengthen the role of UNCTAD as the major source of information on international investment;

(b) Facilitate consensus and the exchange of information on key investment issues, including towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as best practices among stakeholders on investment and enterprise for development, including through the World Investment Forum and other global platforms;

(c) Help developing countries, at their request, to strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement integrated policies, develop an enabling environment and participate in discussions related to international investment;

(d) Support efforts by developing countries, middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition to build productive capacities and internationally competitive firms;

(e) Provide training and capacity-building programmes.

Subprogramme 3
International trade

Component 1
International trade in goods and services

Objective of the Organization: To ensure the effective, qualitative and beneficial participation of all countries in international trade

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Enhanced implementation of measures by developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate beneficially into the international trading system and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development, through improved understanding of trade policymaking and enhanced national capacity	(i) Number of actions (such as the implementation of policy recommendations) taken by countries and institutions receiving UNCTAD assistance to enhance their participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements, cooperative frameworks and partnerships, including South-South trade negotiations and WTO accession processes (ii) Number of actions (such as the implementation of policy recommendations) taken by developing countries to integrate trade, productive capacity, employment and development concerns into their best-fit national trade and services policies
(b) Strengthened trade and trade-related decision-making of developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, and implementation of measures to address the trade and development impact of subsidies, tariff and non-tariff measures	(i) Number of beneficiaries indicating the usefulness of UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System, related statistical indicators, trade analysis training and trade policy research publications for sustainable development (ii) Number of specific actions (such as changes to regulations and increased transparency measures) taken by Member States, at the national, regional or multilateral levels, aimed at streamlining or harmonizing non-tariff measures in international trade, including the reduction or elimination of arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers in international trade, with the assistance of UNCTAD
(c) Enhanced adoption, improvement and enforcement of national and regional competition and consumer protection legislation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition that have adopted, revised or implemented competition and consumer protection legislation and institutional frameworks as a result of best practices, model laws and peer reviews provided by UNCTAD

(d) Enhanced design and implementation by developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, of trade, environment and sustainable development objectives and creative economy strategies at all levels	Number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition that have designed and implemented policies, programmes, normative initiatives and institutional arrangements to harness opportunities for trade in environmentally preferable products, including biotrade and creative industries, with assistance from UNCTAD
(e) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit more from the opportunities arising from international trade	Percentage of stakeholders participating in country-based activities confirming improved capacity to identify and to address gender-specific trade barriers and gender-specific obstacles on the supply side

Strategy

10.17 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, through the three pillars of the work of UNCTAD, will promote inclusive and sustainable growth and development and poverty eradication, based on the international trade in goods, services and commodities, the international trading system and the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme will address persistent and emerging development challenges, with special emphasis on women's economic empowerment, access to decent and productive employment, food security and poverty eradication, and assess their implications for the development prospects of developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, including at the national policymaking level. It will continue to improve cooperation and enhance synergies with other international organizations and foster the coordination of system-wide United Nations activities in the area of international trade. It will also strengthen the communication and dissemination aspects of its work. The subprogramme will assist all developing countries in promoting the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through trade and development.

10.18 The subprogramme will focus on:

(a) Monitoring and assessing from a development perspective the evolution of the international trading system and trends in trade policy and international trade, and their consistency with the multilateral trading system rules;

(b) Monitoring and providing information on all forms of protectionism, including subsidies and disguised trade barriers, in cooperation with WTO and other relevant institutions;

(c) Enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish negotiating priorities, implement bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements and optimize development gains;

(d) Providing technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition prior to, during and in the follow-up to their accession to WTO;

(e) Examining ways to improve the utilization of trade preferences and assess the impact on development of the Enabling Clause of the Uruguay Round Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 under WTO;

(f) Assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, in integrating into the multilateral trading system;

(g) Assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in increasing their participation in global services production and trade;

(h) Continuing research and analysis, within its mandate, on the impact of migration and remittances on development;

(i) Supporting countries in enhancing the contribution of the creative economy to inclusive and sustainable development;

(j) Assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in achieving economic diversification and structural transformation, including increased participation in and upscaling of manufacturing and global supply chains;

(k) Continuing its work on trade and development aspects of intellectual property, while acknowledging that the World Intellectual Property Organization has the lead on intellectual property rights issues within the United Nations system;

(l) Facilitating economic cooperation among developing countries and South-South trade, including through the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries;

(m) Strengthening analytical capacity for trade policymaking and negotiations, and integrating trade and development concerns into national trade policies that contribute to productive capacity, inclusiveness, the empowerment of women and employment creation, in particular for least developed countries;

(n) Promoting the use of effective competition and consumer policies with a view to achieving domestic and international competitiveness and dealing with anti-competitive practices;

(o) Addressing issues at the interface between trade and environment, including climate change, in the context of the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental;

(p) Addressing issues of technology transfer at the interface between trade and environment, including climate change, on mutually agreed terms and seizing trade and investment opportunities relating to that issue;

(q) Addressing challenges and opportunities in the promotion of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including tools and insights available to achieve those goals;

(r) Promoting a better understanding among developing countries, in particular least developed countries, of the links among trade, gender and

development and supporting national capacities to formulate policies and measures aimed at enabling women to derive greater benefit from international trade and at achieving gender equality;

(s) Developing and implementing trade and trade-related technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, including through multi-donor programmes such as the Aid for Trade initiative, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(t) Sharing best practices on partnerships for trade and development that can strengthen the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(u) Undertaking research and analysis on public-private partnerships for development;

(v) In collaboration with WTO, ITC and other relevant partners, consolidating its work on databases on non-tariff measures, continuing its research on and analysis of trade policy measures and the impact of non-tariff measures on the trade and development prospects of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and continuing its participation in the Transparency in Trade initiative.

Component 2
Commodities

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen development gains from the commodity economy and address the trade and development challenges of commodity dependence

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
Improved capacity of commodity-dependent developing countries to address trade and development problems associated with the commodity economy and to seize opportunities emerging from commodity trade and enhanced international and regional cooperation	(i) Number of commodity-dependent developing countries adopting policy measures and tools recommended by UNCTAD in designing policies aimed at the diversification of export earnings (ii) Percentage of stakeholders reporting improved understanding of the challenges and policy options relating to commodity production and trade in countries with economies that are dependent on commodities, with the aim of diversifying their production, including by increasing the added value of their commodities as a result of UNCTAD research and capacity-building activities

Strategy

10.19 Component 2 of subprogramme 3 is under the responsibility of the Special Unit on Commodities. It will contribute to the efforts of developing countries to identify and implement appropriate policies, at all levels, to monitor commodity prices and address the impacts of excessive volatility of those prices on them, and to formulate strategies and policies to respond to the challenges and opportunities of

commodity markets, such as risk management instruments and diversification. It will also assist developing countries, in particular those in Africa, middle-income countries, countries with economies in transition, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, including with regard to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. UNCTAD will monitor developments and challenges in commodity markets and address links between international commodity trade and development. The component will continue to play a key role, with appropriate coordination with other relevant international and regional actors, in:

(a) Addressing the trade and development problems associated with the commodity economy and the links between international commodity trade and development, in particular poverty eradication;

(b) Working in the areas of commodities, food security and investment in agriculture and fisheries, taking into account in particular the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries, in cooperation with other relevant organizations;

(c) Continuing work in the area of agricultural commodities to help developing countries to achieve more sustainable and strengthened agricultural production, food security and export capacity, taking into account the needs of small-scale farmers and the empowerment of women and youth;

(d) Continuing work in the area of non-food commodities, in particular minerals, metals and energy products, with a focus on policies and strategies for sustainable resource management;

(e) Assisting commodity-dependent developing countries in their efforts to:

(i) Develop national commodity strategies, including the mainstreaming of commodity policies into their broad-based national development strategies, such as poverty reduction strategies;

(ii) Build supply-side capacities in order to achieve competitiveness;

(iii) Align development policies with the multilateral trading system with a view to participating in, including moving up, global or regional commodity value chains and diversifying commodity sectors;

(iv) Comply with international trade standards, in particular non-tariff measures such as food standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures;

(v) Take advantage of export opportunities for commodities in emerging markets;

(vi) Establish effective marketing systems and support frameworks for small commodity producers;

(vii) Develop commodity financing and risk management schemes;

(f) Promoting intergovernmental cooperation in the field of commodities and building consensus regarding ways to integrate commodity policies into:

(i) National, regional and international initiatives;

(ii) Trade-related policies and instruments for the resolution of commodity problems;

(iii) Investment and financial policies for gaining access to financial resources for commodity-based development.

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen inclusive growth and development through science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technology for development; efficient, resilient and sustainable trade logistics services; and training and capacity-building programmes

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Improved efficiency and sustainability of trade logistics of developing countries and some countries with economies in transition	(i) Number of actions (such as policies and plans) taken by developing countries, countries with economies in transition and relevant institutions, with the assistance of UNCTAD, to improve transport, logistics and trade efficiency, including by reducing transport costs, improving transit and trade facilitation, strengthening sustainable and resilient transport systems and establishing a supportive legal framework
	(ii) Number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition increasing the efficiency of their customs administration (e.g., through a reduction in goods clearance time and an increase in revenue collection) with assistance from the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data programme
	(iii) Number of developing countries and some countries with economies in transition having improved trade logistics performance on the basis of benchmark indicators related to logistics and business efficiency, with the assistance of UNCTAD
(b) Improved understanding and adoption, at the national and international levels, by developing countries and countries with economies in transition of policy options and best practices in science, technology and innovation for development, including information and communications technologies	Number of specific actions (such as policy or regulatory changes) taken by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement programmes aimed at enhancing the contributions of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology to development, with the assistance of UNCTAD

(c) Enhanced capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the areas of trade and investment and interrelated issues with a view to enhancing their economic development and competitiveness	Number of specific actions taken by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen the skills and knowledge of human resources and local institutions in the areas of trade and investment and related issues, as a result of UNCTAD assistance

Strategy

10.20 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on Technology and Logistics, will help improve the technological capacity, competitiveness in international trade and overall development of developing countries, especially those in Africa and least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and middle-income countries, according to their needs, and will assist transit developing countries with their special challenges related to designing and implementing resilient and sustainable transport infrastructure and services, by:

(a) Supporting initiatives for, and conducting policy dialogue on, the diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and access to and the acquisition of technology for developing countries, including the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;

(b) Improving trade logistics policies; strengthening transport operations management, systems and connections; and supporting the design and implementation of sustainable and resilient freight transport systems;

(c) Further addressing the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries, including by continuing its support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024;

(d) Assisting in particular small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies in the design and implementation of policies suitable to their specific trade logistics challenges;

(e) Assisting in the development and implementation of appropriate institutional and legal frameworks for the facilitation of trade and transport;

(f) Supporting the active participation of developing countries in transport-related and trade facilitation negotiations and the implementation of the resulting outcomes and commitments;

(g) Conducting research and analysis in the areas of science, technology and innovation as an instrument for supporting national development, local industry (in particular small and medium-sized enterprises) and the competitiveness and export diversification efforts of countries, including through the transfer of technology;

(h) Contributing to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 with respect to trade and interrelated issues in the areas of technology and sustainable development;

(i) Carrying out research and technical assistance in the area of information and communications technologies for development, including by contributing to the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development and by promoting e-business strategies and legislation;

(j) Contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

(k) Contributing to the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the Sustainable Development Goals;

(l) Serving as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development;

(m) Fostering training and capacity-building aimed at policymakers and practitioners in the fields of trade and related areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

(n) Assisting developing countries, within its mandates, in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, and enhancing the dissemination and communication aspects of its work;

(o) Assisting in the implementation of customs automation and trade facilitation programmes.

Subprogramme 5
Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

Objective of the Organization: To progressively and beneficially integrate Africa, least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy through the development of national policies and international support measures to build productive capacities for economic development and poverty reduction

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Greater awareness of and dialogue on policy options to promote the economic development of Africa	Number of Member States reporting increased capacity as a result of UNCTAD research and analysis for the national policymaking process
(b) Greater awareness of and dialogue on policy options to address development problems of the least developed countries in the global economy, including those approaching graduation from least developed country status	Number of Member States reporting increased capacity as a result of UNCTAD research and analysis for the national policymaking process
(c) Strengthened institutional capacities among the least developed countries to promote productive capacity-building and make trade an engine of growth and development	Number of least developed countries reporting increased capacity as a result of UNCTAD trade-related assistance, including that under the Enhanced Integrated Framework

(d) Improved institutional capacities of landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies to promote their economic transformation and resilience-building efforts	Number of landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies reporting increased capacity as a result of UNCTAD analysis and advisory services and other forms of assistance on achieving structural progress

Strategy

10.21 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, will focus on identifying and promoting understanding of the economic development problems specific to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It will play an advocacy role in promoting consensus in the international development community regarding policy measures that best address those development problems. This involves the identification of new issues and approaches, as well as greater interaction with research institutes in least developed countries and with development partners. The subprogramme will also contribute to the implementation of and the follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences and to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and in the programmes of action for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, respectively. The subprogramme will assist all beneficiaries in their efforts to successfully achieve economic diversification and structural transformation. It will seek to:

(a) Help landlocked developing countries to implement priorities set out in the Vienna Programme of Action to address weak productive capacities and structural economic transformation and to mitigate the adverse economic consequences of their geographical disadvantage;

(b) Help small island developing States to enhance their resilience to external shocks and achieve structural transformation, notably through economic diversification;

(c) Continue to pay special attention to the problems of other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies;

(d) Support African countries in their efforts to enhance intra-African trade and achieve sustainable development by promoting regional economic integration.

10.22 Research outputs will be linked closely to the provision of advisory services, training, workshops, lectures and technical assistance activities, with a view to improving human and institutional capabilities and raising the awareness of development partners regarding the specific needs of developing countries covered by the subprogramme. The latter will continue to address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including by disseminating its research to relevant policymakers.

10.23 The subprogramme will continue to support countries with special needs in their efforts to benefit from their respective United Nations statuses, which should be a catalyst for structural change, resilience-building and poverty reduction. The subprogramme will also continue to support as many least developed countries as

possible in their progress towards graduation from least developed country status and in ensuring a smooth transition from that status. Technical cooperation outputs of the subprogramme will be focused on building capacities, including national statistical capacity, as well as on effective participation in and the delivery of trade-related technical assistance in the context of, inter alia, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the Aid for Trade initiative. When appropriate, these activities will be implemented within the framework of the Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity.

10.24 The subprogramme will seek to make UNCTAD a central player in the nexus of international efforts to bring as many least developed countries as possible nearer to graduation thresholds. Of particular importance in that UNCTAD role will be helping those countries in the quest for structural transformation and enhancing their ability to identify and implement the most appropriate responses to structural impediments, notably through productive capacity-building and resilience-building action. The subprogramme will also contribute to the implementation and outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in particular the commitments, within the respective programmes of action, to address key development issues such as the quest for sound economic specialization, structural transformation and vulnerability alleviation.

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance inclusive and sustainable growth and development in developing countries, especially least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition through trade and international business development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Strengthened integration of the business sector into the global economy	(i) Number of male and female beneficiaries reporting greater awareness of international trade as a result of ITC support
	(ii) Number of cases in which trade-related policies and/or strategies and/or regulations have been introduced or changed in favour of the international competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, with business sector input, as a result of ITC support
(b) Improved performance of trade and investment support institutions for the benefit of enterprises	Number of institutions reporting improved operational and managerial performance as a result of ITC support
(c) Improved international competitiveness of enterprises	(i) Number of enterprises having made changes to their business operations for increased international competitiveness as a result of ITC support

	(ii) Percentile share of enterprises that are owned, operated and controlled by women having made changes to their business operations for increased international competitiveness as a result of ITC support
	(iii) Number of enterprises having transacted international business as a result of ITC support
	(iv) Percentile share of enterprises that are owned, operated and controlled by women having transacted international business as a result of ITC support

Strategy

10.25 The International Trade Centre bears substantive responsibility for the implementation of the subprogramme. Its strategic thrust is in line with the mandate entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1819 (LV), by which the Council recognized the Centre as the focal point for technical assistance and cooperation activities in the trade promotion and export development field within the United Nations system of assistance to developing countries. The subprogramme will focus on the implementation of international development goals, in particular those set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with an emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16 and 17. The subprogramme is also shaped by the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; the resolutions of the High-level Forums on Aid Effectiveness; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The subprogramme will play an important role in furthering the implementation of the WTO ministerial declarations, including the ministerial decisions taken at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Nairobi.

10.26 The objective of the subprogramme is to enable micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including those owned, operated and controlled by women from developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in sub-Saharan Africa, small and vulnerable economies, post-conflict States and economies in transition, to build their international competitiveness and access new markets. This will be done through: direct enterprise-level support; assistance to strengthen trade and investment support institutions; and support to improve trade-related policies, strategies and the business environment, with business sector input and assistance in building opportunities for enterprises to access international markets. Enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, will be supported in integrating into value chains in both the goods and services sectors.

10.27 In order to achieve this objective, the subprogramme will deliver a wide range of trade-related technical assistance activities, including the provision of trade intelligence to generate greater transparency in trade, and capacity-building

assistance to enhance the international competitiveness of enterprises. This will be undertaken in a manner that ensures that the gender, youth and environmental dimensions of trade are taken into account and built into the programmes and policies of the subprogramme.

10.28 The subprogramme will focus on:

(a) Creating greater awareness of trade issues through advocacy, statistical research and publications, and providing thought leadership through major events;

(b) Providing trade capacity-building and advisory services to enterprises, trade and investment support institutions and policymakers with a view to integrating the business sector into the global economy and, more important, integrating small and medium-sized enterprises into value chains.

10.29 During the period 2018-2019, ITC will build on its successes over the previous three bienniums in measuring its accomplishments through additional efforts to evaluate the impact of its activities on the Sustainable Development Goals.

10.30 Strengthening existing partnerships such as those with other United Nations institutions and the private sector and multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the CEB cluster on trade and productive capacity and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Least Developed Countries, and developing new strategic alliances will be important to ensure that ITC scales up its delivery and impact.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1995 (XIX)	Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly
2297 (XXII)	International Trade Centre
63/204	Report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
63/303	Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development
65/280	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
66/288	The future we want
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
68/200	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
68/219	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024
69/151	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
69/205	International trade and development
69/233	Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection
69/234	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
69/239	South-South cooperation
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Trade and Development Board resolutions and reports

TD/442	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its twelfth session
TD/500/Add.1	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its thirteenth session: the Doha Mandate

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

General Assembly resolutions

66/188	Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets
69/20	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
69/206	International financial system and development
69/207	External debt sustainability and development
69/227	Towards a New International Economic Order
69/242	Assistance to the Palestinian people

Subprogramme 3
International trade

General Assembly resolutions

68/203	Commodities
69/214	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
70/186	Consumer protection

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

General Assembly resolutions

60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
68/220	Science, technology and innovation for development
69/204	Information and communications technologies for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/26	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2015/27	Science, technology and innovation for development

Subprogramme 5
Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

General Assembly resolutions

67/221	Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
67/222	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/18	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category
68/225	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/238	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

69/217	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
69/231	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

General Assembly resolutions

64/189	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
64/216	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
64/220	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
64/222	Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
66/186	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
66/215	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
66/218	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
67/213	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1819 (LV)	United Nations export promotion programmes

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change decisions

1/CP.21	Adoption of the Paris Agreement

World Trade Organization resolutions

WT/MIN (01)/DEC/1	Ministerial Declaration
WT/MIN (05)/DEC	Doha Work Programme: Ministerial Declaration
WT/MIN (11)/W/2	Elements for political guidance
WT/MIN (13)/DEC	Bali Ministerial Declaration
WT/MIN (15)/DEC	Nairobi Ministerial Declaration